

## Floodplain Management: No Adverse Impact



### Description

“No Adverse Impact” is a managing principal and policy goal developed by the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) to support long-term, sustainable approaches to reducing the nation’s flood losses now and in the future. In essence, a **“No Adverse Impact Floodplain” is one where the action of one property owner does not adversely impact the flooding risk for other properties**, as measured by increased flood stages, flood velocity, flows, or the increased potential for erosion and sedimentation.

The No Adverse Impact policy is proposed to be implemented nationwide at a local level through a range of approaches based on what is most effective for any particular management area. The concept promotes local accountability for developing and implementing a comprehensive plan and strategy for the floodplain. Examples of implementation include enforcement of regulations and master plans, as well as delivery of programs and services.

### Advantages

- ★ Sustainable flood policy
- ★ Reduces future flood damages
- ★ Manages floodplain for highest net social benefit
- ★ Promotes protection of the natural/beneficial functions of floodplains
- ★ Flexible concept open to a wide range of local approaches

### Disadvantages

- ☹ Requires community to define what ‘No Adverse Impact’ means on a local level
- ☹ Initiatives of other communities may or may not be conducive to the local situation

## **Floodplain Management: No Adverse Impact**

### **Implementation Considerations**

- Community needs to determine implementation ‘tools’ (ordinances, design standards, master plans, etc.) and the function of each
- Consideration of individual property rights
- Public education
- Identification of range of hazard factors and incorporation of mitigation techniques to minimize impacts

### **Example Communities**

- **DuPage County, IL**
  - ⇒ Compensatory storage = 1.5 x volume floodplain displaced
  - ⇒ 0' Rise in floodplain elevations for all developments
  - ⇒ Floodplain mapping based on future development conditions
  - ⇒ No net loss of wetlands - mitigation ratios of 1.5:1 to 3:1
  - ⇒ Mitigation for any riparian function impacted by development
  - ⇒ No variances for floodplain standards
  - ⇒ 1' freeboard required, even for structures outside floodplain
  - ⇒ Stormwater management plan and capital improvement projects
  - ⇒ Buyouts of structures in flooded areas, including use of local funds
- **Maricopa County, AZ**
  - ⇒ Required total retention of 100-year, 2-hour runoff (2.5-3" rain)
  - ⇒ Adoption of erosion setback zones along watercourses
  - ⇒ Area Drainage Master Study - ID floodprone areas and structural/non-structural solutions
  - ⇒ Watercourse Master Plans (smaller-scale detailed evaluation/solutions) with emphasis on non-structural solutions and multi-use opportunities
- **Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC**
  - ⇒ New development must stay outside the 1/10'-rise floodway
  - ⇒ Floodplain mapping/regulations based upon ultimate development in upstream watershed
  - ⇒ 1' freeboard protection above ‘ultimate’ future flood elevation
  - ⇒ Local adoption of water quality stream buffer regulations
  - ⇒ Mecklenburg County Floodplain Management Guidance Document
  - ⇒ Preparation of Flood Hazard Mitigation Plans based on watershed areas
  - ⇒ Stormwater management program funded by stormwater fee

### **References**

- No Adverse Impact: A Common Sense Strategy to Protect Your Property, February 2002 Task Force Materials.
- No Adverse Impact Floodplains: A White Paper, March 2002 Task Force Materials.
- No Adverse Impact, Status Report: Helping Communities Implement NAI, August 2002 Task Force Materials.
- No Adverse Impact Power Point Presentation, adapted from ASFPM presentation, November 19, 2002 Task Force Materials.

